

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4578, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House may have until midnight tonight, September 28, 2000, to file a conference report on the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I just want to make clear that it is understood that the bill will be filed only if we have reached final agreement on all four corners.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. That is absolutely right. It would have to be complete agreement on the part of the conferees.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3244, TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the conferees on the bill (H.R. 3244) to combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions, in the United States and countries around the world through prevention, through prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, have until midnight tonight, September 28, 2000, to file a conference report on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask for this time for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week and next week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. The House will next meet for legislative business on Monday October 2 at 12:30 for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

We will consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, the appropriations conferees are working hard to solve many remaining issues on the Interior and Transportation conference reports. It is our hope that the conferees will be able to file their conference report as early as tonight. Members, therefore, should be prepared to vote on appropriations conference reports on Monday night after 6 p.m.

On Tuesday, October 3, and the balance of the week, the House will consider the following measures:

H.R. 4205, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001;

H.R. 4577, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Conference Report; and

H.R. 3244, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 Conference Report.

Mr. Speaker, the House will also consider any other conference reports that may become available.

At some point next week, I would anticipate that the House will consider a continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague for his report, and I gather from the last statement that the gentleman made that he anticipates that the House will consider a continuing resolution sometime next week, that we expect that we will go beyond the original target date of October 6. Can the gentleman help us with anything beyond that date in terms of his prognosis?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield to me.

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman speaks, in this case, on behalf of all of our Members on both sides of the aisle. It is that time of the year that many of us have planned to complete our work. We are still hopeful that with a good week's work next week we might be able to finish by the appointed date of October 6, but I think the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) would agree, in light of the past history of appropriations seasons past, that it would be a prudent thing for us to be prepared to have a continuing resolution that would go beyond that time. And should we find ourselves moving in to that period of time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the gentleman from Michigan, the

House will be scheduled in such a way as to maximize the opportunity that Members might need to fulfill other commitments they would have made for that week ensuing.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague. I am thinking in particular of Yom Kippur and Columbus Day that are right behind next weekend or next weekend, and I am wondering if the gentleman could express his comments.

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I appreciate the gentleman's inquiry. I believe that it is Yom Kippur, and it is a matter of major importance to so many of our Members, and we certainly want to respect that.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his response.

Let me ask one other question to the gentleman from Texas, the majority leader, we had a vote here just a second ago on the motion by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) to open up and make sure that the conference on Agriculture is available to all the conferees and to instruct the conferees to meet with all Members present. Can we assume from that vote that that in fact will happen?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I want to thank the gentleman for his inquiry, and if the gentleman would continue to yield.

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Earlier in our bicameral meeting today, we discussed the conference on agriculture, and it is my understanding that the key participants in the committee on both sides of the aisle will get together, plan out a schedule, and notify the other Members.

Mr. BONIOR. I am trusting that there will be full and adequate public airings in which the managers have the opportunity to debate and to vote on all matters of disagreements between both Houses, and I hope this is not done between a couple of people and everyone else is left out.

I just want to reemphasize and underscore what we have just done on the House floor and say to the majority leader I anticipate that since the House overwhelmingly voted in that matter that those wishes will be carried out in the conference on agriculture, and I thank my colleague for his information.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, may I just wish the gentleman from Michigan good luck this Sunday on the gridiron when my beloved Vikings come to town.

HOURLY MEETING ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow, Friday, September 29, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?